

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

UTM19 A 438260/4907050

B _____

C _____

D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: _____
2. Historic name: Libby-Hill Block
3. Street or rural address: 227-233 Water Street
 City Augusta Zip 04330 County Kennebec
4. Parcel number: Map 34, Lots 34, 35
5. Present Owner: Maine Savings Bank Address: 227 Water Street
 City Augusta Zip 04330 Ownership is: Public _____ Private XX
6. Present Use: Commercial Original use: Commercial

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Italianate
- 7b. Briefly describe the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Constructed of granite, this three story building is capped with an over-hanging cornice supported on simple brackets, also of granite. The windows are square-headed with double hung sash. Except for the third story of 227 Water Street, the original six over six sash has been replaced with one over one sash. Also, the store at 227 Water Street is the only one which retains the original granite piers and lintels. The remaining storefronts were remodelled in a non-historic character with granite facing in 1977.

Attach Photo(s) Here

See Photo 2

8. Construction date:
 Estimated _____ Factual 1866
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder _____
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
 Frontage _____ Depth _____
 or approx. acreage $\frac{1}{4}$ acre
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
12/85

13. Condition: Excellent ___ Good X Fair ___ Deteriorated ___ No longer in existence ___
14. Alterations: Most original sash replaced, early 20th century;
Store fronts remodelled.
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up XX
Residential ___ Industrial ___ Commercial XX Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known XX Private development ___ Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? XX Moved? ___ Unknown? ___
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

This building is architecturally important as the surviving granite structure on Water Street constructed after the large 1865 fire. Although commonly used for public buildings in Maine, such structures are relatively rare for retail establishments. Built as a block of three stores by B. Libby and Dr. H. H. Hill, the building symbolizes the participation of Augusta's leading developers in rebuilding the city after the fire. These two prominent gentlemen, among the wealthiest in Augusta, chose granite to help ensure no further conflagrations would decimate the central business district.

The first store on the south originally contained James Patterson's book and music store. Next came George Dewell, the barber, followed by A.D. Millet's dry and fancy goods store. The entire upper portion of the block was occupied by George Cony for his dancing school and assembly hall.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture XX Arts & Leisure _____
 Economic/Industrial ___ Exploration/Settlement _____
 Government ___ Military _____
 Religion ___ Social/Education _____
 Other (describe) _____

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

Maine Farmer (Augusta)
February 8, 1866
November 15, 1866

22. Date form prepared January, 1986
 By (name) Roger Reed
 Organization MHPC
 Address: _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):